



# NATIONAL ABILITY AWARDS

Inspiring Inclusion

## Program Overview

Presented by





## **NATIONAL ABILITY AWARDS** Inspiring Inclusion

In Kenya, approximately 10 percent of the population, that is more than 3 million people, live with disabilities. Kenya is making strides in breaking down the stigma that so many persons with disabilities face everyday. However, some communities, government sector organizations and businesses are resisting the full inclusion of persons with disabilities for a number of reasons, including the cost and complexity of compliance, fear of change, lack of knowledge, and the perception that people with disabilities are incapacitated. Like society in general, some organizations see people with disabilities for what they cannot do, rather than as a group in society with skills to contribute. This perception of total incapacity prevents full economic inclusion of people with disabilities. It may also contribute to low self-confidence and expectations amongst persons with disabilities.

It is time for Kenyans to acknowledge the strengths and abilities of all their citizens over any disability and recognize the economic and development potential of all persons as an asset to the nation.

The National Ability Awards are part of the Kenyan Government's celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities that is held on 3 December each year. The day is a collaborative effort to celebrate and acknowledge the contributions and experiences of persons with disabilities.

The 2011 inaugural awards will celebrate the exceptional leadership of groups and organizations who have done so much to create greater access and opportunities for persons with disabilities. Their efforts lead the way and show others what is possible. The awards will also inspire us with the stories of people who have overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges. They are our co-workers, friends and family; individuals who offer hope and inspire us with their courage, strength, and drive to

### **About The National Council for Persons with Disabilities**

The National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) was set up in December 2004 following the enactment of The Persons with Disabilities Act 2003. The Council is a semi-autonomous government agency. The Council's membership consists of organisations of and for persons with disabilities, key government ministries, the Office of the Attorney General, Federation of Kenya Employers and the Central Organisation of Trade Unions. Together with our members and partners we work to mainstream disability issues in all aspects of socio-cultural, economic and political development.

### **About VSO Jitolee**

VSO Jitolee is a member of the International VSO Federation and is registered in Kenya as an international NGO with the core mandate of addressing poverty and enhancing the participation of the disadvantaged members of the society in socio-economic and political development through volunteerism. We work through volunteers with strategic partners in development programmes in Nairobi, Eastern, Coast, Western, Rift Valley and Nyanza counties; with a focus in the programme areas of Disability, Health and HIV & AIDS and Secure Livelihoods. VSO Jitolee also recruits Kenyan and Ugandan professionals to work alongside partner organisations in 44 countries, mostly in Africa Asia and the Pacific; who share their skills, commitment and enthusiasm to achieve jointly agreed development objectives.



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give back to their communities.

The National Ability Awards and the associated call for nominations will be launched at 1:30pm, October 14, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Upper Hill. Special guests at the launch tentatively include US Special Advisor on Disabilities, Judith Heumann, and Kenyan athletic hero, Henry Wanyoike. All partners in the Awards program will be present at the launch including: the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), VSO Jitolee, USAID, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Leonard Cheshire Disability, Handicap International, CBM, Sightsavers, United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK), Association for Disabled Persons of Kenya, Autism Society and other community leaders.

Given the significant marginalization of persons with disabilities, the National Ability Awards is a strategic project that will have a national footprint that encourages people with disabilities and our communities to recognize the development issues they themselves face, participate in addressing them, and enjoy the fruits of such endeavors.

The National Ability Awards will help break down the stigma of disability by showcasing that integrating persons with disabilities in our communities, alongside small changes to our physical surroundings, enables these individuals to participate fully in our work places, our communities and schools. The contributions of persons with disabilities strengthen our communities and ultimately our economy.

### Testimonials:

*'We are very proud to support the Inaugural National Ability Awards with both in-kind and financial contributions. The National Awards will be a catalyst to improve participation and active involvement of people with disabilities in society. The stories of award recipients will inspire all of us to reach even higher to create greater access and opportunities for PWDs'.* Ben Ngutu Executive Director, VSO Jitolee Kenya

*'A great deal has been done to create greater access for PWD in Kenya. The National Award Program is an important step forward in realizing a barrier-free society where persons with disabilities enjoy equal access to opportunities in all spheres of life. I encourage you to join this partnership.'* Helen Obande, Executive director, United Disabled Persons of Kenya

*"Leonard Cheshire Disability exists to enable persons with disabilities to improve their quality of life and to campaign for the removal of the barriers which hinder them. Leonard Cheshire Disability supports the National Ability Award as we believe this initiative will go a long way in promoting social inclusion of persons with disabilities in Kenya, through inspiring award recipients to work even harder to ensure that people with disabilities enjoy their rights and have the opportunity to fulfill their potential."* Jayne Muema, Regional Programme Manager, East & North Africa, Leonard Cheshire Disability of Kenya



## Our Commitment to Accountability and Transparency

The National Council for Persons with Disabilities and VSO Jitolee are committed to a zero tolerance for personal and institutional corruption. We are vigilant to ensure any and all loopholes for corrupt practices are sealed. Any contributions made to the National Ability Awards, in kind or financial will go directly to support the objectives of the National Ability Awards program:

- To **enhance awareness** of disability inclusion.
- To **inspire** individuals, groups and organisations to enhance access and inclusion for Persons with Disabilities by **honouring Kenyans** who have overcome seemingly-insurmountable challenges and who reach out to help others.
- To **recognize organizations** that demonstrate exceptional leadership and commitment to enhancing accessibility, inclusion, universality and the elimination of any barriers that may impede the full participation of persons with any type of disability in community life.

Upon completion of the awards, all contributions and expenses will be fully accounted for and audited from both a performance and financial perspective demonstrating value-for-money. This final report will be shared with all contributing partners.